

Towhee. On March 22, my friend, Mr. John De Q. Briggs, saw two Towhees at Plymouth, Mass. As they do not usually arrive in Massachusetts before the 20th of April, it is probable that they had wintered in that region. — ARTHUR C. COMEY, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Colorado Bird Notes.—I desire to record a Western Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea eurhyncha*) taken near Altona, Boulder Co., Colo., August 16, 1901. The farthest north this bird had previously been observed in Colorado was at Morrison.

I wish also to record the observation of an Indigo Bunting (*Cyanospiza cyanea*) near Clear Creek, Denver, Colo., May 7, 1901. This is the fourth record for Colorado.

May 19, 1900, I found twelve Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) breeding at Barr, Colo. Mr. Ridgway states (Bull. Essex Institute, V. Nov. 1873, 174) that a few were found breeding in the State. I have found no records of their breeding here since that time.

Also at Barr, on June 20, 1900, I found a set of Canvasback's (*Aythya vallisneria*) eggs, and on July 4 I found another set, which was apparently laid by the same bird. I was informed upon good authority that there were two other pairs breeding in the vicinity. As far as I can determine this is the first record of the Canvasback's breeding in Colorado.—A. H. FELGER, *Denver, Colo.*

Some Southern New Hampshire and Western Massachusetts Notes. — The young bird student who has developed comparatively good observing powers, but has as yet no reputation, is unfortunate if he is made sole witness to interesting bird happenings which cannot be authenticated. I cannot hope that the following will all be accepted as records; for, by singularly bad luck, the bird was not secured in any one of the more interesting cases; and I can only wish they had fallen to the lot of some trusted man.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

On July 28, 1900, I saw on the shore of a small lake (Nubanusit Lake) in Hillsboro County, southwestern New Hampshire, just over the line from Cheshire County, a Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*), whose actions seem to prove it a breeding bird.

Nubanusit Lake, partly in Cheshire and partly in Hillsboro County, is a deepish sheet of clear water, of irregular form, being nearly three miles long and varying in width from less than a tenth of a mile to about a mile and a quarter. It lies at a height above the sea of 1368 feet, while some of the spruce-clad hills by which it is surrounded reach a height of nearly 2300 feet.

The lake shore, which is now almost entirely wild, is here and there swampy and bush-grown, but mainly covered by a dense forest of fair-

sized second-growth spruce trees ; while in a few places these have lately been cut, leaving brush-heaped and bramble-covered clearings, with small clumps of spruce saplings ; and these tracts are the breeding ground of many Song and White-throated Sparrows. The general aspect of the place is so northern, and its summer avifauna includes so many more or less strictly Canadian species, such as Swainson's Thrushes, Olive-sided Flycatchers, Winter Wrens, Loons, Brown Creepers, Myrtle and Magnolia Warblers, etc., that one is tempted to the hope of finding some still more northern birds breeding there.

As I was walking along the shore of this lake, at one of the cleared and scrubby points, without a gun, on the afternoon of July 28, 1900, a small sparrow, holding something in its bill, hopped onto a bush-top about four yards ahead of me, and fluttered from twig to twig, chirping anxiously. At first glance I saw that it looked wrong for a Song Sparrow, and at the second, as the bird flew to a still nearer bush, that it was an unmistakable, clearly marked Lincoln's. Flying back and forth from one bit of scrub to another, with all the actions of a bird disturbed over an intruder's near approach to its nest, it stayed in plain sight before me, at a distance varying from three to six yards, for fully two minutes, during which time I had, short of actually holding it in my hands, the fullest possible opportunity of studying its form and markings, in many aspects. When it finally dropped to the ground among the lower bushes and disappeared, I had time to make only a short search for a possible nest, and was forced to come away without even finding the bird again. Since then my father and I have searched carefully the shore of the lake ; once later in the summer of 1900, and twice in the summer of 1901 ; but we have seen no further signs of *Melospiza lincolni*. It is a species I know comparatively well, both in the hand and at large, having grown very familiar with it during the spring migration of 1900, and there is, for me, no possible doubt that the Nubanusit Lake bird was an actual Lincoln's Sparrow.

In a wood of tall mixed timber, at Chesham, N. H., six miles north of Mt. Monadnock, on May 18, 1899, my father watched for several minutes at close range a female Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*). The bird was feeding on a stump fifteen feet above his head, and he had an excellent chance to examine it. Considering the lateness of the season, this is a very southern record.

On August 19, 1901, I saw at Dublin, N. H. (1500 feet above sea-level), at the northern base of Mt. Monadnock, a Louisiana Water-Thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*). Early that morning, as I was lying just awake in my open tent among birch and poplar saplings, listening to the chipping of many early migratory warblers, I heard near by an unusually loud and ringing Water-Thrush call. The northern Water-Thrush (*S. noveboracensis*) is a common migrant here, and even breeds regularly in one locality, and, though I was surprised by the loudness of the chip, I had no thought of seeing anything but one of these birds. Sitting up in bed, I began 'squeaking' with my lips, and almost instantly the Water-Thrush

flew to a birch-branch within ten feet of the front of my tent, and stayed there in full view for fifteen or twenty seconds, while my astonished eyes took in its gleamingly white superciliary stripe, widely immaculate throat and belly, buffy sides, and dark crown clearly defined against a lighter back. I could scarcely have had a more complete and convincing view of a bright-plumaged southern Water-Thrush, inasmuch as its large bill was the only distinctive point of which I did not manage to record a clear image. I hurriedly got up and went to the house for a gun, and was delighted to still hear the bird's ringing chip when I came out armed. But though I heard it several times thereafter and twice saw it at a distance, it proved extremely shy or restless and soon escaped me completely. No doubt this is too important a record to be accepted on such insufficient evidence, and I must stand alone in my absolute conviction that *Sciurus motacilla* has wandered to New Hampshire.

The Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*), which is known as an extremely rare visitant to Massachusetts, and has never been recorded from the northwestern part of that State, seems to be a regular and not very uncommon migrant in the vicinity of Mt. Monadnock, in the southwestern corner of New Hampshire. We have shot one in late May, 1897, near Fitzwilliam, within a mile or two of the Massachusetts line, on the south side of the mountain; one in late September, 1899, at Dublin, on the north; and a third at the same place and season in 1900. Besides these three, which are all preserved in our collection, we have seen and positively identified several others in the fall migration at Dublin. All these we have seen were in the company of flocks of migrating warblers, in scrubby second-growth along road-sides.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Since the finding of three nests of the small Shrike (be it *migrans*, *excubitorides*, or *ludovicianus*), by Mr. S. G. Tenney in Williamstown several years ago, there does not seem to be any record of the bird's occurrence in Berkshire County. It is therefore worth recording that on August 18, 1900, I saw a brightly-plumaged small shrike on one of the high pasture hills between Lanesboro and Berkshire village. The bird flew from a low bush near me to the top of an elm tree, where I watched it for several minutes. This is the only one I have seen in the region, though I have found in the thorn-bushes of those hills several old nests which seemed to be shrike nests.

On August 15, 1900, a very large young Goshawk (*Accipiter utricapillus*), in brilliantly mottled plumage, flew close past me on the heavy-forest-bordered road low down on the eastern side of Hoosac Mountain, just within the boundaries of Berkshire County. This is perhaps the first summer record for the county. On August 21 of the same year, I saw two Duck Hawks (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) circling about over the Cheshire reservoir, in the town of Lanesboro.

The White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) does not seem to have been recorded from any part of Massachusetts in summer. In the wonderful spring of 1900, when, amid an unusually copious migration of birds from the south, the Lesser Red-poll Linnetts lingered about the lower Hudson River till the last days of April, and White-winged Crossbills at least till May 29, and almost certainly later, the stay of the latter birds in Berkshire, Mass., lapped over into June. On the 3d and 4th of that month I saw a flock of five or six in the town of Lanesboro, and there is little doubt that they might have been found still later on Mt. Greylock; especially as they seem to be rarely wholly absent at any season from the spruce woods of Mt. Monadnock, only 56 miles to the east-northeast. — GERALD H. THAYER, *Monadnock, N. H.*

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the Northern Adirondacks, New York.—During the latter half of the second semester, from April until June, it is customary for the students of the Junior and Senior classes of the Cornell College of Forestry to spend their time in practical work in the demonstration forest at Axton, in the northern Adirondacks. It was while doing work as a student under the above conditions that I found time to make a hasty survey of the bird population of the region, and to prepare a check-list covering the period from April 16 to June 12, 1901.

Arriving as we did while snow still covered the ground, we found on hand few birds except the native winter residents, and hence were able to watch and note accurately the date at which the migrating birds reached this northern forest. Our work, too, was of a nature which took us daily into the woods and fields, and covered a wide range of territory, hence new arrivals were promptly seen and recorded.

To the best of my knowledge no list has been published giving dates at which birds in their northern migration arrive in this part of the Adirondack region, so I have ventured to append the result of my observations, claiming for the same no special merit or absolute degree of accuracy. The errors, however, lie rather in sins of omission than commission, as no birds are mentioned in the list which were not seen and identified with certainty. On the other hand, it is certain that several species visited the region which were not recorded, owing to the fact that they refused to pose before the opera glass long enough to have their identity established. Surrounding the Forester's camp at Axton is a clearing of several hundred acres, thus combining in close relation the conditions of open fields and dense forests, and in consequence broadening the field for bird study.

The following is a condensed copy of the check-list, showing first, under date of April 16, the birds seen on the day of our arrival:

April 16. Also occurring during the whole season.

Red-winged Blackbird. Common.

Rusty Grackle. Numerous flocks.